

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W  
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R 020912Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HOHNOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 5918

E.O. 11652 NGDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, CH  
SUBJECT: LDP FACTIONAL MANEUVERING

REF: TOKYO 5092

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: FOUR SENIOR LDP LEADERS REPRESENTING DISSIDENT FACTIONS WITHIN PARTY MET APRIL 30 OSTENSIBLY TO URGE PROMPT CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP TREATY. MORE LIKELY PURPOSE WAS TO ISOLATE PRO-TAIWAN FUKUDA FACTION AND EMBARRASS PRIME MINISTER MIKI BY THIS PUBLIC DISPLAY OF DISSIDENT UNITY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT URGING UPPER HOUSE KENZO KONO, FORMER PRIMIE MINISTER KAKUEI TANAKA, FINANCE MINISTER MASAYOSHI OHIRA, AND PARTY STRONGMAN SHIGERU HORI MET WITH KONO APRIL 3P OSTENSIBLY TO URGE PROMPT CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP TREATY. TREATY IS STILL HUNG UP OVER CONTROVERSIAL HEGEMONY ISSUE. ALL EXCEPT HORI ARE MEMBERS OF DISSIDENT LDP (ANTI-MAINSTREAM) TANAKA AND OHIRA

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FACTIONS.

2. PRESS SPECULATES THAT LDP VICE PRESIDENT AND ORIGINAL MIKI PROMOTER ESTUSABURO SHIINA, WHO HAS PUBLICLY VOICED CRITICISM OF PRIMIN RECENTLY (REFTEL) MAY ALSO LATER JOIN GROUP. SHIINA HIMSELF REFUSES TO CONFIRM OR DENY.

3. COMMENT. DESPITE ALLEGED REASON FOR BIG FOUR MEETING, THIS PUBLIC DISPLAY OF DISSIDENT UNITY APPEARS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ISLOATE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA, A LEADING CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED MIKI, AND EMBARRASS PRIME MINISTER MIKI HIMSELF

GIVEN CONTINUING ROUGH BALANCE BETWEEN MIKI-FUKUDA AND TANAKA-OHIRA GROUPINGS, HOWEVER, WE BELEIVE IT UNLIKELY AT THIS STAGE THAT DISSIDENTS CAN DO MORE THAN SIMPLY INDICATED THERE IS (AS EVERYONE KNOWS) ALTERNATE FACTIONAL GROUPING NOT ONLY WAITING TO TAKE POWER, BUT INCREASINGLY UNITED IN VIEWPOINT. INJECTION OF INTRA-LDP FACTIONAL IN-FIGHTING WILL ALSO COMPLICATE HEGEMONY ISSUE SETTLEMENT.

4. TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF BIG FOUR MEETING WORTH NOTING. IT WAS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER TANAKA WHO HAS FACTIONAL STRENGTH AND RESOURCES TO PLAY MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN LDP BUT WHO HAS AVOIDED IT UP TO NOW BECAUSE OF PENDING CHARGES AGAINST HIM. SECND IS PROMINENT ROLE OF Hori, WHO ALONG WITH MIKI WAS ONE OF SMALL GROUP COMPROMISE CANDIDATES FOR LDP PRESIDENCY (AND PRIME MINERSHIP) POTENTIALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH FUKUDA AND TANAKA-OHIRA FACTIONAL GROUPINGS. STILL NOMINALLY A MEMBER OF FUKADA FACTION, Hori HAS NOW PUBLICLY FORGED LINKS WITH TANAKA-OHIRA GROUPINGS AND CLEARLY ONE MAN TO WATCH AS LDP FACTIONAL MANEUVERING CONTINUES.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NPT, TREATY RATIFICATION, SPEECHES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TOKYO 5092  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LDP FACTIONAL MANEUVERING  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, JA, CH, LDP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006